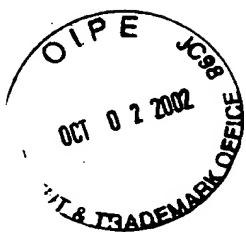


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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Jean-Paul VIDOT et al.

Serial No.: 09/868,182

Group Art Unit: 3682

Filed: June 15, 2001

Examiner: Vinh T. Luong

For: PYROTECHNICALLY UNLOCKABLE MECHANICAL LINKING DEVICE
IMPLEMENTING A PISTON

REPLY TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the election of species requirement mailed September 4, 2002, applicants elect, with traverse, the species of Figs. 1 to 3, claims 1, 2, 6 to 11, and 29 reading thereon.

The election is made with traverse because Figs. 1 to 5 all are directed to an embodiment with four tips 15. Moreover, Figs. 6 and 7 show an embodiment with two tips 45. Thus, in all seven of these embodiments, the tips move together in order mechanically to unlock a piston. Thus, the claims designated to correspond to at least Figs. 1 to 5 (and realistically to Figs. 1 to 7) should be examined as a unit. The justification for the Requirement appearing in 4 on page 3 of the requirement does not mention the

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plural tips discussed herein. Those means should be taken into consideration.

Fig. 8 is directed to an embodiment of the invention where balls are used instead of tips to unlock the piston. Applicants accept a difference in concept between that subject matter and the rest of the claims.

Reconsideration of the requirement in view of the above explanation is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

October 2, 2002
Date

CAW.dlb

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